

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The description and claims are amended to correct typing errors, remove multiple dependencies and place them in more traditional format, as explained below.

The amendments made at page 10 of the specification agree the description of Figures 1 and 2 with Examples 1 and 2, respectively.

In fact, Example 1 illustrates an epiK5-amine-O-versulfate having a sulfation degree of 3.55 and Figure 1 gives the $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of said epiK5-amine-O-versulfate. By the present amendment, the name of the product is now reported correctly and the degree of sulfation given at page 10, line 4 is now in accordance with that given in Example 1.

Example 2 illustrates a N-acetyl-epiK5-amine-O-versulfate having a sulfation degree of 3.5 and Figure 2 gives the $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of said N-acetyl-epiK5-amine-O-versulfate. The above amendment puts the sulfation degree given at page 10, line 6 in accordance with the value reported in Example 2.

The amendments to the formulas (a'), (b'), (II'b), (III'b), (b''), (IV'b), (b''') and (V'b) at pages 31, 33, 39, 41 and 42, as well as in claims 91, 93, 107, 109 and 111 correct clerical errors due to an inadvertency in drafting the formulas. By the above amendment, the positions of the substituents OR, OR' and OR'' of these formulas is now in accordance with those of the corresponding formulas in which the disaccharide only is shown, i.e. of formulas (II), (II'), (II'a), (III), (III'), (III'a), (IV), (IV'), (IV'a), (V), (V') and (V'a).

Accordingly, «R» has been replaced by «R» at pages 31, 33, 39 and 41 of the specification. In any case, the meaning of the substituent does not change because all of R, R' and R'' represent hydrogen or SO_3^- .

The claims are amended and, for convenience, a new set of claims is presented.

Claim 70 now depends on claim 60 instead of claim 64, because its scope is within that of claim 60 rather than within that of claim 64. In fact, claimed products may have a mean molecular weight higher than that of the upper limit given in claim 64.

The scope of claim 79 has been limited to cover the 100% N-acylated products which represent the preferred embodiments of the invention. This preferred embodiment is supported by the description; *see* page 13, last line – page 14, line 1, page 36, lines 19-20, Example 2 and Example 3.

In claim 90 a definite range, supported by page 40, line 13 of the specification, has been given to the sulfation degree.

Claims 91, 104, 106 and 109 have been limited to the LMW products, claimed or included in the claimed compositions, bearing a structure (a') at the reducing end of the majority of their chains. This limitation is supported by the disclosure of page 31, lines 1-7, page 33, lines 7-12, page 38, last line – page 39, line 5, page 41, lines 13-18.

Claims 20, 21 and 29 are deleted, without prejudice or disclaimer, to advance examination/reduce issues.

Other amendments involve the elimination of multiple dependence of the claims and of linguistic, clerical or typing errors, as well as the replacement of the European-type wording "characterized by that" by "wherein" according to USPTO practice.

Please examine the above claims taking into account the results of the International Search Report and the concurrently filed Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Arthur R. Crawford
Reg. No. 25,327

ARC:eaw
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100